

Message Text

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NO. 4 FOR CARTER FROM PA

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SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT EVANS AND NOVAK OP-ED PAGE COLUMN
WASHINGTON POST THURSDAY FEBRUARY 17 HEADED "THE REAL
DANGER OF THE KOREAN SCANDAL."

2. BEYOND THE PERSONAL WRECKAGE THE KOREAN SCANDAL IS
BOUND TO LEAVE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPOSURE
OF FINANCIAL TIES BETWEEN CONGRESSMEN AND THE SOUTH
KOREAN GOVERNMENT THREATENS U.S. FOREIGN POLICY IN ASIA--
SHAKY AT BEST EVER SINCE VIETNAM.

3. UNPROVED BUT WIDELY CREDITED REPORTS ARE CIRCULATING
ON CAPITOL HILL THAT SEVERAL SCORE CONGRESSMEN, MOST OF
THEM DEMOCRATS, ARE MARKED FOR POLITICAL EMBARRASSMENT--
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AND GRAND JURY INDICTMENTS IN SOME CASES. THEREFORE,
REALISTS IN THE ADMINISTRATION SEE SEVERE TROUBLE WHEN
PRESIDENT CARTER'S KOREAN-AID REQUEST COMES UP IN
CONGRESS: A SHARP CUT IN THE EXPECTED \$300 MILLION MILI-
TARY AID PACKAGE FOR SOUTH KOREA.

4. THAT WOULD RESULT PARTLY FROM INCREASED CONGRESSIONAL

BACKING FOR THE "HUMAN RIGHTS" CAMPAIGN LED BY REP. DONALD FRASER OF MINNESOTA, NOT AGAINST THE SOVIET EMPIRE BUT AGAINST ONE OF THIS COUNTRY'S FEW SOLID ALLIES REMAINING IN ASIA. DESPITE CARTER'S STRESS ON "HUMAN RIGHTS," HIS TOP FOREIGN POLICY OFFICIALS ARE DISTRESSED AT THIS CHANGE.

5. BUT EVEN MORE THAN "HUMAN RIGHTS," THE CAUSE FOR POTENTIALLY DRASTIC REDUCTION IN U.S. AID TO THE ADMITTEDLY LESS THAN DEMOCRATIC SEOUL REGIME IS THE FLIGHT BY PANICKY CONGRESSMEN SEEKING TO ESCAPE THE KOREAN TAIN. ASIAN SPECIALISTS IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND WHITE HOUSE HAVE BEEN SEARCHING FOR A FORMULA TO WARD OFF THAT PREDICTABLE FLIGHT WHEN THE AID DEBATE HITS THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE. SO FAR, THEY HAVE FOUND NONE.

6. "I SEE SOMETHING COMING UP ON THE HORIZON THAT COULD PUT US RIGHT OUT OF BUSINESS IN KOREA," A PROMINENT CONGRESSIONAL DEMOCRAT TOLD US. A SIMILAR WARNING WAS VOICED BY REP. JIM WRIGHT OF TEXAS, THE HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER, WHEN HE CONFERRED RECENTLY WITH ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI, THE PRESIDENT'S NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER.

7. WRIGHT WARNED THAT CARTER'S PROPOSALS LOOKING FOR EVENTUAL WITHDRAWAL OF ALL U.S. GROUND TROOPS FROM THE KOREAN PENINSULA SHOULD BE VERY MODEST, BECAUSE THE SCANDAL-CONSCIOUS HOUSE MAY SPEED THEM UP ANYWAY. BRZEZINSKI, REPLIED THAT THE GROUND TROOP PULLOUT WOULD BE UNCLASSIFIED

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PHASED OVER THREE TO FOUR YEARS, WITH NO REDUCTION IN VITAL U.S. AIR SUPPORT.

8. FOR ANY CONGRESSMAN PUBLICLY ACCUSED OF ACCEPTING GRATUITIES OR EVEN LEGAL CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS FROM NOW DEPARTED WASHINGTON OPERATIVE TONGSUN PARK OR ANY OTHER KOREAN SOURCE, THE URGE TO VOTE AGAINST KOREA MAY PROVE IRRESISTIBLE. ANY OTHER VOTE WOULD OPEN HIM TO CHARGES OF VOTE-SELLING, HOWEVER UNFAIR OR UNPROVED.

9. LONG BEFORE TONGSUN PARK WAS EXPOSED AS THE INTIMATE FRIEND OF A WIDE SPECTRUM OF HOUSE MEMBERS, THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE LAST YEAR CUT PRESIDENT FORD'S KOREAN AID BILL BY 40 PER CENT. THAT RADICAL SURGERY, PERFORMED BECAUSE OF "GROSS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS" BY THE "AUTHORITARIAN" REGIME OF PRESIDENT PARK CHUNG HEE, WAS EASILY OVERTURNED IN THE HOUSE.

10. THIS YEAR, WITH EVERY TAINTED MEMBER TRYING TO FIND

SOME WAY TO PURGE HIMSELF, THAT CUT WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE

SUSTAINED IN THE HOUSE. BESIDES SUCH PERSONAL CONSIDERATIONS, THE GROWING HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE HAS NOW BEEN FORTIFIED STILL MORE BY THE HEAVY PUBLICITY GIVEN THE CONGRESS-KOREAN CONNECTION.

11. A CASE IN POINT IS THE CREATION OF FRASER'S NEW SUB-COMMITTEE ON U.S.-KOREAN RELATIONS BY A 19 TO 4 VOTE OF THE FULL INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE. LAST YEAR, IT MIGHT NOT HAVE WON A MAJORITY.

12. FRASER'S NEW MANDATE, RUNNING FOR 18 MONTHS, GIVES HIM STAFF AND MONEY TO DO WHAT HE HAS LONG SOUGHT: PROBE IN DEPTH UNPROVED ALLEGATIONS THAT SOUTH KOREA MANIPULATED AND INFILTRATED U.S. INSTITUTIONS. THE INEVITABLE OUTCOME: SUSTAINED HEADLINE CHARGES DAMAGING U.S.-KOREAN
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RELATIONS AND WEAKENING THE UNITED STATES IN ASIA.

13. "WHAT IS ESSENTIAL HERE," ONE HIGH ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL TOLD US, "IS TO DETACH THE KOREAN SCANDAL FROM THE VERY REAL POLITICAL AND MILITARY INTERESTS THAT WE HAVE IN KOREA." THIS DETACHMENT, DIFFICULT THOUGH IT MAY BE IN TODAY'S CONGRESSIONAL MOOD, IS REGARDED AS ESSENTIAL BECAUSE OF DEVELOPMENTS IN BOTH PYONGYANG AND WASHINGTON.

14. IN NORTH KOREA, INFLUENCE BY BOTH PEKING AND MOSCOW IS AT A LOW EBB. MARSHALL KIM II SUNG, THE NORTH KOREAN DICTATOR, HAS SHUNTED ASIDE HIS SHREWDEST POLITICAL ADVISERS IN FAVOR OF HIS UNIMPRESSIVE SON, CHONG II SUNG, HIS HEIR APPARENT IN A PROPOSED DYNASTY. THUS, THE DESPOTIC KIM IS READY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ANY SIGN OF WEAKNESS SOUTH OF THE BORDER, WITHOUT RESTRAINING INFLUENCE AT HOME OR ABROAD.

15. IN WASHINGTON, THE NEW PRESIDENT'S PLANS FOR GRADUAL REMOVAL OF ALL U.S. GROUND TROOPS WORRY SOME MILITARY EXPERTS, WHO FEEL IT COULD UNDERMINE--PSYCHOLOGICALLY MORE THAN MILITARILY--THE DEFENSE OF SOUTH KOREA.

16. A PANIC ON THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE BY TERRIFIED CONGRESSMEN PROCLAIMING TO THE WORLD THAT WE ARE ABANDONING KOREA WOULD BE A LAST COMBUSTIBLE ELEMENT. THAT IS WHY ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS ARE FILLED WITH FOREBODING.
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